

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 NEA-09 EA-06 FEA-01 AGR-05

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INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EAID, EEC, VS

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, APRIL 14-15: HIGHLIGHTS

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 2969 B) EC BRUSSELS 3031 C) EC BRUSSELS 3302
D) EC BRUSSELS 3318 E) EC BRUSSELS 3320

1. SUMMARY: THE EC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MET IN LUXEMBOURG ON APRIL 14 AND 15. MOST OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN RESTRICTED SESSION AND CENTERED ON THE US-EC CHEESE COUNTERVAILING ISSUE AND ON FOOD AID FOR VIETNAM. (REPORTED REFS C AND E). WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL COOPERATION, THE MINISTERS FORMULATED THEIR RESPONSE TO THE US DEMARCHE TO THE IRISH ON VIETNAM (REPORTED REF D). REMAINING COUNCIL BUSINESS INCLUDED AN INCONCLUSIVE REVIEW OF THE MEDITERRANEAN POLICY; INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ON RAW MATERIALS, WHICH RESULTED IN AN INSTRUCTION TO THE COMMISSION TO COMPILE A COMPLETE RAW MATERIALS INVENTORY FOR THE COMMUNITY; THE ADOPTION OF A CONSUMER PROTECTION PLAN; AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE BRITISH REQUEST TO INCREASE IMPORT

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QUOTAS FOR EDIBLE OILS AND FATS. END SUMMARY.

2. MEDITERRANEAN POLICY: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSSED MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AT SOME LENGTH ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED REF B. THEY TOOK NOTE OF THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND DECIDED THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD COME INTO FORCE ON JULY 1, 1975. THUS, THE MINISTERS HAVE AGREED TO THE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR AN EARLY SIGNATURE WHILE TRYING TO MAINTAIN A ROUGHLY PARALLEL POSITION VIA A VIS THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES.

3. ON THE LATTER, THE ITALIANS SAID THAT WHILE THEY WERE UNABLE TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS REGARDING AGRICULTURE, THEY WERE QUITE HAPPY FOR THE NON-AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMISSION'S NEGOTIATIONS TO CONTINUE. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SIDE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE AGRICULTURE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 28-29. (THE ITALIANS CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENTRY OF PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, POTATOES, AND COMPENSATION FOR IMPORTS OF ALGERIAN WINE DESTINED FOR THE FRENCH MARKET.) (SEE ROME 5364).

4. FOOD AID FOR VIETNAME: THE COUNCIL NOTED A COMMISSION DECISION TO ALLOCATE TO THE RED CROSS ADDITIONAL FOOD AID FOR USE IN VIETNAM. THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED TO ALLOCATE SOME 590 TONS OF SKIMMED MILK POWDER TO UNICEF FOR USE IN VIETNAM. IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE APPROXIMATELY \$360,000 TO UNICEF TO BE USED TO TRANSPORT THE FIRST 100 TONS OF MILK POWDER BY AIR AND TO BUY SUGAR AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. ACTION IS EXPECTED WITHIN TWO TO THREE WEEKS ON COMMISSION PROPOSALS CONCERNING ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF FOOD AID FOR VIETNAM.

5. RAW MATERIALS: THE MINISTERS HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT OF RAW MATERIALS BASED ON PAPERS WHICH WERE PREPARED FOR THE DUBLIN SUMMIT (SEE EC BRUSSELS 1882) BUT WHICH WERE NOT DISCUSSED AT THAT TIME. BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OUTLINED HIS PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS' CONFERENCE (SEE LONDON 5557) AND FOR OTHER MEETINGS DEALING WITH THE RAW MATERIALS QUESTION. THE COUNCIL REQUESTED THAT A COMPLETE SURVEY OF THE COMMUNITY'S RAW MATERIALS NEEDS BE MADE BY THE COMMISSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MINISTERS ALSO AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATING COMMUNITY POSITIONS IN ADVANCE OF MEETINGS DEALING WITH RAW MATERIALS AND HAVE REQUESTED THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) TO ESTABLISH THE

APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION PROCEDURES.

6. REGIONAL FUND:-THE BUDGET QUESTION: THE COUNCIL AND A DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ATTEMPTED TO RESOLVE THEIR DISAGREEMENT ON HOW REGIONAL FUND EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE TREATED UNDER THE EC BUDGET. THE PARLIAMENT CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THAT THESE ARE "NON- OBLIGATORY" EXPENDITURES OVER WHICH IT HAD CONTROL WHILE THE COUNCIL CONTINUES TO TAKE THE OPPOSITE VIEW. ACCORDING TO COUNCIL SOURCES, NO PROGRESS WAS MADE AT RESOLVING THIS IMPASSE. FURTHER EFFORTS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE COMING WEEKS.

7. EDIBLE OILS AND FATS: THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED BU DID NOT APPROVE THE BRITISH REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN THE IMPORT QUOTA FOR OILS AND FATS DERIVED FROM WHALES AND FISH. SUCH OILS, WHICH ARE USED TO MANUFACTURE MARGARINE IN THE UK, ARE IMPORTED PRIMARILY FROM SWEDEN AND NORWAY. COREPER IS TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER.

8. CONSUMER PROTECTION: THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A RESOLUTION SETTING UP A PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR A CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION POLICY AIMED AT PROTECTING CONSUMERS AGAINST RISKS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY PROVIDING FOR COMPENSTION FOR DAMAGES..

9. EC -GREECE ASSOCIATION: THE COUNCIL AGREED ON TEXTS EXTENDING THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GREECE AND THE COMMUNITY TO THE THREE NEW COMMUNITY MEMBER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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STATES . THE COMMUNITY WILL PROPOSE TO THE GREEK DELEGATION THAT THESE TEXTS BE SIGNED AT THE AMBASSDORIAL LEVEL, AT A MEETING OF THE EC-GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 28.

10. AID TO MSA'S: THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF COMMUNITY AID TO BE GIVEN TO THE MSA'S UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY OPERATION.
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